

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 34  
By Miller

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Senator Micheal R. Williams on the celebration of his 50th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those honorable colleagues who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Senator Micheal R. Williams, Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate of the 104<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, will celebrate his 50th birthday on February 6, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Senator Williams was born in Knoxville on February 6, 1955, and resides in Maynardville in Union County, located in the 4<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, which he has ably represented during the previous four General Assemblies; prior to assuming his Senate seat, he served admirably in the House of Representatives in the 97<sup>th</sup> through the 99<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Senator Williams has rendered invaluable service to the citizens of Tennessee as a member of the Senate Committees on Finance, Ways and Means, Commerce, Labor and Agriculture, and Rules; he was selected by his party to serve as Senate Republican Whip in the 100<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and as Senate Republican Assistant Floor Leader for the 101<sup>st</sup> General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Senator Williams is a highly respected member of the Maynardville community, where is renowned as an accomplished antique automobile restorer and is highly regarded by his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; he is a member of the Antique Vehicle Preservation Society, the Jeep Registry, American Motors Organization Club, Antique Automobile Club of America, American Motors World Car Club, Clinton Car Club,

Smoky Mountain Studebakers Drivers Club, Studebaker Drivers Club of America, and Smoky Mountain Model A Club; and

WHEREAS, the Speaker Pro Tem is also a supportive member of Farm Bureau, the National Rifle Association, Senior Citizens Health Assistance Service, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Tennessee State Employees Association, and the American Legislative Exchange Council; and

WHEREAS, Micheal Williams developed a deep love for motor vehicles early in life while racing Hobby-class cars in North Carolina, welding and mounting tires by day and racing or working on his cars at night; he made his Winston cup debut in 1975, impressively finishing 22<sup>nd</sup> driving Ed Negre's Dodge in the World 600 at the Charlotte track; and

WHEREAS, over the next three years, he made eight more starts, and then took his first full-time Winston Cup ride for Rod Osterlund; he scored his initial Winston Cup win at Bristol in just his 16<sup>th</sup> career start and, eight races later, he notched his first career pole position at Riverside; and

WHEREAS, by the end of that season, he had sped to 11 top-five finishes, winning the rookie title in one of the most competitive rookie battles ever; in 1980, he beat veteran driver Cale Yarborough in his quest to win his first NASCAR Winston Cup Series title...but wait, this body may have erred in this and the previous two clauses – a perhaps understandable confusion appears to have overtaken the membership in its enthusiasm to honor our esteemed colleague; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the Senate has been confounded by a prominent physical attribute shared by two great Americans – our Speaker Pro Tem and NASCAR Racing Champion and legend, Dale Earnhardt; both gentlemen sport prominent mustaches, and even the most discerning observer could easily confuse them; and

WHEREAS, perhaps our mistake is of no great concern, as each of us knows that Speaker Pro Tem Williams could have matched Mr. Earnhardt's stellar NASCAR record step-for-step had he chosen to take that career path; we may, along with all the citizens of this State, consider ourselves fortunate that he elected to pursue a public office in an effort to serve the people of his district and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as Senator Williams approaches his 6th decade, he is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events, distributing pocket calendars, and serving the voters as the aging process and his health permit; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Speaker Pro Tempore Micheal R. Williams on the celebration of his 50th birthday, join with him in dreaming of the career he put aside to pursue public service through elective office, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.